

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 24, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rene C. Wood, Chairman
Martin C. Mitsoff
Robert C. Kilmer, Jr.

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Jill Hughes, Assistant to Town Administrator
Eric Carlson, Carlson Propane
Members of the public

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and explained the procedure of the hearing.

Selectman Mitsoff read the public hearing notice.

Eric Carlson, Carlson Propane stated he is the representative for applicant Benjamin Webster. He explained that they are applying for a license to install two 1,000 gallon propane tanks at 89 Ashley Falls Road. These would be in addition to the two existing 1,000 gallon propane tanks already installed on the property. Mr. Carlson explained that Massachusetts law states anything above 2,000 gallons of storage requires a license and a public hearing. The two tanks that are currently on the property provide heat to the greenhouses. The two new tanks are for the standby generators. The Board inquired about the location of the tanks and if they will be interconnected. Mr. Carlson explained that space on the site is limited and the tanks will be interconnected. There was discussion regarding the location of the tanks, greenhouses and fence. Mr. Carlson explained that they have to meet the setback requirements. He stated that the Fire Inspector has been on site and has signed off on the application. Chairman Wood asked if there have been any complaints about the current location of the two existing tanks. Mr. Carlson responded there have been no complaints.

Rick MacDowell stated his concerns with noise from the generators and safety measures.

Stephanie Spina asked if a special permit for industrial propane tanks is needed. Chairman Wood responded that is purpose of this hearing. Administrator LaBombard stated that if approved the license would be renewed annually as all other license holders for this purpose,

Chairman Wood asked Mr. Carlson to explain how the tanks are connected and safety measures. Mr. Carlson explained that once the tanks are installed and connected following state standards they are inspected by the gas and fire inspectors. He also stated that tanks are periodically inspected when they make propane deliveries. Chairman Wood asked if trees or shrubs could be planted around the tanks. Mr. Carlson stated that trees and shrubs should be kept clear of tanks so they are able to inspect when they make deliveries. He stated that the tanks are below the fence height. Stephanie Spina stated that she can see the tanks through the green fence from her home. Rick MacDowell stated that the tanks are visible from the road.

Selectman Mitsoff moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Selectman Kilmer. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Wood – aye

Selectman Mitsoff – aye

*Select Board Minutes
Public Hearing
January 24, 2022 Meeting
Page 1 of 2*

Selectman Kilmer – aye

The public hearing closed at 7:34 PM.

The Board began their deliberations. There was discussion on neighbor concerns and whether conditions can be placed. Chairman Wood suggested writing a letter to Ben Webster highlighting the neighbor concerns.

Stephanie Spina inquired about explosions and accidents. Chairman Wood stated that the hearing was closed and asked her to contact Mr. Carlson with any questions.

Selectman Mitsoff moved to approve the license application for Benjamin Webster for up to two 1,000 gallon propane tanks to be installed at 89 Ashley Falls Road, seconded by Selectman Kilmer. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Wood – aye

Selectman Mitsoff – aye

Selectman Kilmer – aye

Selectman Kilmer moved to send a letter to Benjamin Webster about the neighbor concerns, seconded by Selectman Mitsoff. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Wood – aye

Selectman Mitsoff – aye

Selectman Kilmer – aye

Selectman Mitsoff offered to draft the letter to Mr. Webster.

Selectman Mitsoff moved to, seconded by Selectman Kilmer. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Wood – aye

Selectman Mitsoff – aye

Selectman Kilmer – aye

Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Jill Hughes
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
Application for License